

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SSO-00 RSC-01 EURE-00 OPR-01 A-01

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O 041620Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1089

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0486

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC CY

SUBJECT: EMBASSY NICOSIA SECURITY

REF: STATE 022966

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IF SITUATION HERE REQUIRES MSG TO REMAIN IN STATE OF ALERT FOR PROLONGED PERIOD, WE WILL HAVE TO ASK FOR INCREASE OF THREE WATCHSTANDERS OVER PRESENT TOTAL MSG COMPLEMENT OF EIGHT. MARINES NOW STANDING 14-HOUR WATCHES AND WORKING 72 HOURS PER WEEK.

2. IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR EVACUATION OF OFFICIAL USG PRESENCE, WE HAVE DRAWN UP SIX OPTIONS FOR MOVEMENT FROM RAF STATION AT NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHICH IS PART OF A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AREA COMPRISING UN HEADQUARTERS, TROOP AND POLICE UNITS OF EIGHT NATIONS, ETC., UNDER TIGHT UN CONTROL (5 SQUARE MILES) AND TO WHICH ACCESS IS GRANTED ONLY WITH UN PERMISSION. IT IS TO THIS AREA THAT ALL US PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS WOULD BE BROUGHT AS RESULT OF LOCAL EMERGENCY. OPTIONS FOR MOVEMENT FROM RAF STATION ARE:

A. BY RAF/UNFICYP HELICOPTER TO AKROTIRI SBA FOR EVACUATION BY USAF FIXED WING OR USN HELICOPTERS TO OFF-ISLAND SAFEHAVEN.

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B. BY RAF/UNFICYP HELICOPTER TO DHEKELIA SBA FOR EVACUATION TO USN VESSEL BY USN HELICOPTER (AND THENCE TO SAFEHAVEN).

C. BY USN HELICOPTER DIRECTLY TO USN VESSEL.

D. BY USN HELICOPTER TO AKROTIRI SBA AND THENCE VIA USAF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT TO SAFEHAVEN.

E. BY ROAD TO EITHER DHEKELIA OR AKROTIRI SBA UNDER GOC SECURITY ESCORT, AND THENCE VIA USAF OR USN AIR ASSETS TO SAFEHAVEN.

F. BY ROAD TO LARNACA AIRPORT (SCHEDULED TO OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC FEBRUARY 8) UNDER GOC SECURITY ESCORT, AND THENCE VIA COMMERCIAL AIR TO SAFEHAVEN.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT MAKE NECESSARY CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRITISH FCO AND MOD FOR PICKUP OF USG PERSONNEL AT AKROTIRI OR DHEKILIA SBA'S BY HELICOPTER OR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, AS CASE MAY BE, IN EVENT OF EVACUATION.

4. RAF STATION NICOSIA IS PRIME LIFT-OFF POINT FOR HELICOPTERS IN NICOSIA AREA, IS SECURE AND HAS FULL COMMUNICATIONS. DOES DEPARTMENT CONSIDER IT FEASIBLE TO HAVE USN HELICOPTER MAKE PICKUP FROM RAF STATION NICOSIA?

5. EMBASSY IS INFORMALLY SOUNDING OUT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION AND RAF HERE REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF USING THEIR ASSETS FOR TRANSPORT RAF STATION TO SBA'S. HOWEVER, WE WILL MAKE NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF ABOVE OPTIONS IN BRITISH CONTINGENCY PLANNING UNTIL DEPARTMENT SO INSTRUCTS.

6. TOTAL NUMBER OF USG EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AT POST AS OF FEBRUARY 4 IS FORTY-SEVEN (47).

7. POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AFFECTING LIKELIHOOD OF DEMONSTRATION ON FRIDAY OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. AS STATED IN CRAWFORD-EAGLETON TELCON, WE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS INDICATORS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SERIOUS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST EMBASSY BEING PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, FEB 7. STIMULI WERE (A) EXPECTATION THAT US ADMINISTRATION MIGHT SUCCEED IN PERSUADING CONGRESS DEFER TURKISH AID CUTOFF; (B) TO LESSER DEGREE MARKARIOS' STATEMENTS ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS IN TALKS AND HIS IMPLICATIONS RE CYNICISM OF US POLICY; (C) COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS ON GREEK REFUGEE RETURN; (D) HARRASSMENT OF GREEKS REMAINING IN NORTH. WE JUDGE SOME OF THE HEAT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF SITUATION BY FACT THAT AID IS BEING CUT OFF,

BUT GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLANNED
STATEMENT FEBRUARY 5, DEPENDING ON ITS LANGUAGE, COULD
AGAIN STIR EMOTIONS AS COULD SOME SHOW OF MAINLAND MILITARY MUSCLE
IN DEFIANCE REACTION TO AID CUTOFF. (DATT IS SEPARATELY REPORT-
ING JUST SUCH A TURKISH MOVE LAUNCHED FEBRUARY 4 IN ACHNA
AREA.) IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MAKARIOS AND GREEK EMBASSY,
WE HAVE FOREWARNED ON POSSIBILITY OF NEW DEMONSTRATIONS AND
THEREBY SOUGHT TO ENLIST MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN DEFLECTION OF
VIOLENCE.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI00486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0744
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750274/aaaacore.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 022966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY NICOSIA SECURITY
TAGS: ASEC, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006